

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected independent claims 50 and 59 as being indefinite. Applicants have amended the claims to address the concerns of the Examiner.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected the claims based on the patent to Basting (6,005,880) either alone in combination with Fielden (4,459,541).

The patent to Basting, assigned to the same assignee as the subject application, relates to circuitry for controlling the timing between the firing of two separate discharges. As the Examiner correctly notes, Basting teaches that jitter between the two discharges can be minimized by introducing a variable time delay into the circuit. In Basting, the variable time delay is achieved by applying a DC bias circuit reset current to one or both of the inductors in the compression circuit. However, contrary the position of the Examiner, Basting does not disclose any particular mechanism for controlling the voltage on the bias circuit. It is believed that the circuitry in Basting would have been used by a technician during system set-up. Jitter could be monitored and then the voltage on the bias circuit would be manually set to minimize jitter.

In contrast, in the subject Basting application, an improved, open loop control approach is disclosed and claimed. More specifically, during the generation of each individual pulse, the circuitry measures one or more laser parameters such as the instantaneous voltage on the storage capacitor, reset current or core magnetization. Based on this measurement, a delay signal is generated for that particular pulse to control the relative timing between the firing of the discharge chambers. Basting '880 does not disclose or suggest such a pulse-to-pulse control of jitter. Accordingly, it is submitted that Basting '880 fails to anticipate or render obvious Applicants' invention as defined by the independent claims which include a jitter compensation circuit which receives "an input corresponding to a measured laser parameter which exhibits pulse to pulse variations, said jitter compensation circuit generating a variable delay signal in response to the received input and supplying the signal to said circuitry to control the relative timing of the excitation pulses delivered to the first and second discharge chambers on a pulse to pulse basis."

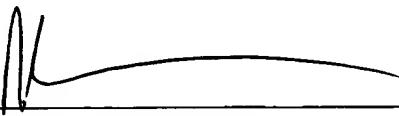
The patent to Fielden was cited merely for its teaching of a differential high voltage probe. Fielden, which merely relates to a circuit for measuring capacitance, fails to overcome the deficiencies of Basting '880 in teaching or rendering obvious Applicants' invention.

For the reasons set forth above, it is submitted that amended independent claims 50 and 59 define patentable subject matter and allowance thereof, along with the claims depending therefrom, is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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